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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 1641

In re  
Patent Application of  
Thierry Gicquel, et al.  
Serial No. 09/554,167  
Filed: July 11, 2000

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**APR 26 2002**  
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I, P. Brandenburg, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

P. Brandenburg  
Signature  
April 15, 2002  
Date of Signature

Examiner: K. Padmanabhan

“REACTION VESSELS, A SET OF SUCH  
VESSELS, AND AN IMMUNOLOGICAL ASSAY  
METHOD AND APPARATUS IMPLEMENTING  
SUCH SETS OF VESSELS”

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 1, 4, and 5.

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<sup>The apparatus</sup>  
(Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 11, including an opaque shoe for pressing in light-proof manner around the window of the vessel provided with a central opening for passing light between the vessel and photometric means.

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<sup>The apparatus</sup>  
(Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 11, including a plate for receiving the washing means and the photometric means.